



S.C.R. No. 22

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, High quality education for the citizens of Texas is a vital public concern, and a major portion of the state's total budget is appropriated for education; and

WHEREAS, The education system will be undergoing important changes as a result of recent major policy decisions in such areas as curriculum reform, bilingual education, and requirements relating to teacher competency; and

WHEREAS, Additional decisions may need to be made, particularly concerning financial matters, following the outcome of current litigation and the proposed reduction in federal funds and considering the growth of the permanent school fund; and

WHEREAS, Local independent school districts need to reevaluate their current programs in light of the statewide assessment results, and many districts face continuing difficulty in financing capital expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The legislature indicated its continuing concern and need for additional information about education matters during the Regular Session of the 67th Legislature by authorizing interim studies of educational costs and of vocational education; and

WHEREAS, These important and widespread changes, along with continuing general property tax concerns, create a need for leadership and for a forum for cooperation and communication relating to public education in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, That the 67th Legislature, 1st Called

1 Session, hereby establish a special committee to study the issues
2 and concerns relating to public education in Texas, including
3 curriculum reform, bilingual education, requirements relating to
4 teacher competency, and alternative methods of financing; and, be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of 18 members,
7 including the lieutenant governor, chairman; the speaker of the
8 house of representatives, vice-chairman; the chairman of the Senate
9 Committee on Education; four other members of the senate, to be
10 appointed by the lieutenant governor; the chairman of the House
11 Committee on Public Education; four other members of the house, to
12 be appointed by the speaker of the house; the chairman of the State
13 Board of Education; two other members of the State Board of
14 Education, to be appointed by the chairman of that board; the
15 chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Public Education;
16 and two other members of the Governor's Advisory Committee on
17 Public Education, to be appointed by the governor; the chairman
18 shall appoint advisory committees, as necessary, and the committee
19 shall hold meetings and public hearings at the call of the
20 chairman; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Central Education Agency be authorized to
22 provide an executive director and staff support for the committee
23 to assist with the conduct of the study; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the committee have the power to issue process
25 to witnesses at any place in the State of Texas, to compel the
26 attendance of such witnesses, and to compel the production of all
27 books, records, documents, and instruments that the committee may

1 require; if necessary to obtain compliance with subpoenas and other
2 process, the committee shall have the power to issue writs of
3 attachment; all process issued by the committee may be addressed to
4 and served by any peace officer of the State of Texas or any of its
5 political subdivisions; the chairman shall issue, in the name of
6 the committee, such subpoenas and other process as the committee
7 may direct; in the event that the chairman is absent, the
8 vice-chairman or any designee of the chairman is authorized to
9 issue subpoenas or any other process in the same manner as the
10 chairman; witnesses attending proceedings of the committee under
11 process shall be allowed the same mileage and per diem as are
12 allowed witnesses before any grand jury in the state; the testimony
13 given at any hearing conducted pursuant to this resolution shall be
14 given under oath subject to the penalties of perjury; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the committee be authorized to request the
17 assistance, where needed in the discharge of its duties, of all
18 state agencies, departments, and offices, and that it be the duty
19 of such agencies, departments, and offices to assist the committee
20 when requested to do so; the committee shall have the power to
21 inspect the records, documents, and files of every agency,
22 department, and office of the state to the extent necessary to the
23 discharge of its duties within the area of its jurisdiction; and,
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the operating expenses of the committee be
26 paid from the Contingent Expense Fund of the Senate and the
27 Contingent Expense Fund of the House, equally, and that the

1 committee members be reimbursed from these funds for their actual
2 expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this
3 resolution; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the committee make complete reports, including
5 findings, recommendations, and drafts of any legislation deemed
6 necessary, to the legislature as necessary and appropriate; copies
7 of the reports shall be filed in the Legislative Reference Library,
8 with the Texas Legislative Council, with the Secretary of the
9 Senate, and with the Chief Clerk of the House.